

Message Text

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FOR VOA/PE (PLANINSKY); EU
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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CONDUCTOR BOGIDAR AVRAMOV IN BULGARIA

1. ONE OBSERVER CHARACTERIZED IT AS A MUTUAL ADMIRATION
EVENT. "A CONDUCTOR FULL OF ENERGY WAS THE HEADLINE OF THE
"SOFIA NEWS" ARTICLE (MAY 10, 1978) REVIEWING THE RECENT
(APRIL 28) APPEARANCE IN SOFIA OF AMERICAN CONDUCTOR BOZHIDAR
(OFFICIAL US NAME BOGIDAR) AVRAMOV. EARLIER SSE CONDUCTED THE
VARNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. AFTER QUOTING THE "LOS ANGELES
TIMES" AND POLISH PUBLICATION ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR'S PAST
PERFORMANCES, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "SOFIA NEWS" COMMENTED:
"AVRAMOV ONCE AGAIN CONFIRMED HIS HIGH-LEVEL STATUS AS A FIRMLY

ESTABLISHED MUSICIAN WHO IS EXCEPTIONALLY SKILLED IN AT-
TAINING THE CHARACTERISTIC MOODS OF EPIC NARRATION, AS WELL
AS OF THE EPISODES OF IMPRESSIVE DRAMATIC TENSION." THE
BULGARIAN-BORN AMERICAN SAID IN SOFIA: "I WAS DEEPLY MOVED
BY THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO ME TO CONDUCT TWO CON-
CERTS IN BULGARIA. AFTER BEING AWAY FOR 13 YEARS, I
FOUND THE RE-ESTABLISHED CONNECTIONS WITH MY BULGARIAN
COLLEAGUES VERY REWARDING."

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2. AVRAMOV IS A WELL-KNOWN NAME IN BULGARIA AND
ABROAD. BOZHIDAR IS THE SON OF PEOPLE'S ARTIST
PROF. VLADIMIR AVRAMOV, RESPECTED JUDGE OF INTERNA-
TIONAL VIOLIN AND CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITIONS, WHO HAS
VISITED THE US IN 1975 AS GUEST OF MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY WHERE HE LECTURED ON VIOLIN AND CHAMBER

MUSIC. BOZHIDAR WAS BORN IN SOFIA IN 1937 AND GRADUATED FROM BULGARIAN STATE CONSERVATORY. HE EARNED A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN ORCHESTRA CONDUCTING FROM WARSAW SCHOOL OF MUSIC WHERE HE STUDIED WITH CONDUCTOR OF WARSAW PHILHARMONIC, STANISLAW WISLOCKI. UNDER YAESTRO FRANCO FERRARA, HE COMPLETED SPECIALIZATION COURSE AT SANTA CECILIA CONSERVATORY IN ROME, FOLLOWED BY APPOINTMENT AS CONDUCTOR X VARNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

3. IN 1966 AVRAMOV CAME TO NEW YORK WHERE, AT INVITATION OF LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI, HE CONDUCTED THE AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. HE HAS LED ORCHESTRA IN US, INCLUDING THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC, AND ABROAD. IN 1969 HE BECAME MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE WESTSIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. AVRAMOV IS ALSO A PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND CONDUCTOR-IN-RESIDENCE AT LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIV. IN LOS ANGELES. IN 1975 HIS WESTSIDE ORCHESTRA WAS HONORED BY ASCAP "FOR ADVENTURESOME OVERALL PROGRAMMING OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC." CRITICS HAVE CALLED BOZHIDAR AVRAMOV "AN OUTSTANDING CONDUCTOR," "KNOWLEDGEABLE AND IMPRESSIVE," AND "A SUPERLATIVE CONDUCTOR."

4. AVRAMOV'S VISIT TO VARNA AND SOFIA WAS ARRANGED BY STATE IMPRESARIO AGENCY SOFIA CONCERT AND HE CONDUCTED ONE OF FOUR PERFORMANCES BY SOFIA PHILHARMONIC DEDICATED TO BRAHMS. AFTER LEADING THE ORCHESTRA IN A RENDITION OF CONCERTO FOR PIANO NO. 1 -- WITH SOLOIST IVAN DRENNIKOV -- AND SYMPHONY NO. 2, AVRAMOV RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION FROM THE OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATIVE CONCERTGOERS. "SOFIA NEWS" SAID THE PHILHARMONIC'S STRING AND WIND INSTRUMENT GROUPS "RESPONDED TO AVRAMOV WITH BOTH READINESS AND A HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARD."

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CATED TO BRAHMS. AFTER LEADING THE ORCHESTRA IN A RENDITION OF CONCERTO FOR PIANO NO. 1 -- WITH SOLOIST IVAN DRENNIKOV -- AND SYMPHONY NO. 2, AVRAMOV RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION FROM THE OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATIVE CONCERTGOERS. "SOFIA NEWS" SAID THE PHILHARMONIC'S STRING AND WIND INSTRUMENT GROUPS "RESPONDED TO AVRAMOV WITH BOTH READINESS AND A HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARD."

5. PIANIST DRENNIKOV VISITED THE US IN 1976, PARTICIPATING AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S INTERNATIONAL SEASON BY LECTURING AND PERFORMING. AVRAMOV CONSIDERS HIM HIGHLY ACCOMPLISHED AND THE SOFIA PHILHARMONIC A "FIRST-RATE" ORCHESTRA. HE SAID OVER RADIO SOFIA "IT WAS A REAL PLEASURE TO WORK WITH THEM," AND TO BULGARIAN TV AUDIENCE "I APPRECIATE THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH THE SOFIA PHILHARMONIC PERFORMED UNDER MY BATON. THE WARM RECEPTION GIVEN TO ME BY THE AUDIENCE WAS OVERWHELMING."

GARTHOFF

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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